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15 AUG 1975

Mr. Herbert R. Pearce
American Institute of Aeronautics
and Astronautics
815 15th Street, N.W. - Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Pearce:

Your letter of 22 July to Mr. Angus Thuermer has been referred to me as the Office of Training is responsible for arranging and coordinating programs of the type you requested.

We will be glad to set up a program after January 1976 for the Washington Section of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics similar to the Brookings Conference you attended at the CIA Headquarters several years ago. [redacted] of my staff, who I understand has already been in touch with you, informs me that as many as 200 persons could be expected. Unfortunately we will not be able to accommodate more than 150 persons because of limited dining facilities in the evening, when this program will have to be conducted.

We would plan to open the meeting about 6:30 p.m. in the CIA Headquarters Building in Langley, Virginia with refreshments and buffet at an approximate cost of \$5.50 per person. Then would follow a 45 minute briefing on the Agency by one of our key senior officials. In the question and answer period to follow, the speaker will be assisted by senior officers representing the four Directorates -- the same procedure as in the Brookings Conferences.

We would like to have as much advance notice of the date as possible and at least three weeks prior to the visit we will require a list of the participants. [redacted] Special Programs Officer, will coordinate the visit for the Agency. He can be reached on telephone number [redacted]

Sincerely,

[redacted]
Arnonso Rodriguez
Director of Training

*I changed this to \$5.50 on ad. STAT
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3 May 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Ground Rules Established for the 11 March 1976 Briefing
for the American Institute of Aeronautics and
Astronautics (AIAA)

1. Approximately 28 CIA employees, aside from the panel members, attended the subject briefing either because they were requested to provide escort service or because they had a personal interest as members of AIAA. We have interviewed 18 of the CIA attendees as to their recollection of the ground rules stated by Mr. Carl E. Duckett at the beginning of the briefing.
2. None of those interviewed remembers precisely what Mr. Duckett said. Seven weeks have elapsed since the briefing was given and CIA employees were primarily interested in the substance of the briefing; the ground rules were not stated for their benefit.
3. There is a consensus that the following transpired. After welcoming the guests, Mr. Duckett apparently noted that he was aware that several writers (or members of the press) were present. Some think he made remarks (jokingly) implying that CIA had had enough press publicity. Almost all remember that he stated that the fact or substance of the meeting should not be reported to (or given to or leaked to) the press. Several say that he said this several times during the briefing. About half the CIA attendees believed that he admonished the group not to take any notes. A number of attendees characterize his remarks as implying the meeting was off the record though no one remembers him using that phrase. One individual says that Mr. Duckett stated that the briefing should be unattributed rather than off the record. Others think he said or implied that the information should not leave the auditorium.
4. Several remember that Mr. Duckett said that the briefing was going to be unclassified but he also said that the briefers were going to be candid (or forthcoming or some similar implication). He apparently stated that some of the information might be on the edge of classification. (Two individuals say he used the phrase: "We might back up against classified material.") Most of the CIA people

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Executive Registry

76-7423/22

April 26, 1976

The Hon. George Bush, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Bush:

By this letter, I formally request a public apology from you and your agency for your repeated written and verbal statements regarding my role in attending and reporting the 11 March, 1976 briefing held by your agency for members of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

I have been a correspondent and editor in Washington for 25 years and highly value my reputation for honesty, accuracy and integrity. Your statements constitute defamatory attacks upon my personal and professional reputation, with consequent damaging effect upon myself, my publications and my company, Trends Publishing, Inc.

Furthermore, your statements were unwarranted, false and misleading, with obvious intent to cast aspersions upon me, my publication and my company. They have already resulted in serious harm, unfavorable publicity and a request -- publicized because of your agency, that I resign my long-standing membership in AIAA.

As an investigation will demonstrate, the AIAA invitation to this event specified "an unclassified briefing," and the fact that this was unclassified was repeated at least once by agency officials during the course of the meeting.

The invitation went on to specify: "Of course, no photos or note taking."

(over)

23 March 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Inspector General

FROM : Angus MacLean Thuermer
Assistant to the Director

SUBJECT :

At the morning meeting on Friday, March 12, the DDS&T reported that there had been a meeting the evening before with the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics in our auditorium. The Brookings-type briefing had seemed to go over very well but DDS&T said he had something of a set-to with one of the members who had turned out to be a writer of a newsletter. He wanted to use the material mentioned at the briefing. DDS&T said that he had told the man that he should either have accepted the ground rules at the meeting or leave the meeting. After further exchange DDS&T said that if he wanted to talk any more about the matter he should call me. DDS&T said he did not catch the man's name.

Later in the morning a man who identified himself as Arthur Kranish did call. He said he had been advised to call me by DDS&T. He said he had been at the meeting the night before and intended to write a piece about it.

Our discussion centered around the idea that in our view, he had come to the meeting as a member of the Institute and not as a member of the press. He contended that he did not hide the fact that he was the writer of a newsletter. He asserted that the invitation to the meeting said that nobody should bring camera or take notes. He said he did not do either of these things. I told him that I as a former press agency man obviously understood how he would like to write a story but also thought he'd come out as an Association member not as a newspaperman.

He said that there had been no statement that the talk was "off the record" or "for background" or was any such phrase used.

We then went into a discussion in which I said that the intelligence culture out here in Langley was such that that sort of phraseology could not be expected. That was the sort of phraseology used by persons downtown in Washington who were used to dealing with newsmen and the various degrees of attributability which are the hallmark high-level political

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16 March 1976

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Mr. Herbert Pearce
American Institute of Aeronautics
and Astronautics
815 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Pearce:

I am writing to express my concern about the article published in The Washington Post on 15 March by Arthur Kranish who attended the AIAA session with the Agency on 11 March. This article has already provoked serious criticism of the Agency and could have international repercussions.

I recognize that the Agency for its part was in error in responding to certain questions at the AIAA session, and I have publicly accepted responsibility for that mistake. The failure of a member of your organization, Mr. Kranish, to live by the ground rules established for the session compounded the situation by making this error a matter of public record.

The Congress and the Executive are now trying to establish laws and procedures for operating an effective intelligence organization in this open society. As part of this effort, we are trying to inform those outside Government about the Agency and its mission through sessions such as the one we had with the AIAA. Mr. Kranish's action has set this process back. Although I believe it necessary to record my deep concern by this letter, I ask that it not be published without discussing such a possibility personally with me.

Sincerely,

George Bush

George Bush
Director

DDI/16 March 1976
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DPC 49

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS BRIEFING
MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1976, 12:40 P. M.

CIA 1.82 STATE

Dept

(orig under
org)

(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.)

MR. FUNSETH: Good afternoon.

First, I apologize for the condition of the room.

We still do not seem to be able, despite our repeated requests, to get this room cleaned on a daily basis. We will look into it again.

I have a few announcements:

First, available in the Office is the itinerary for Prime Minister and Mrs. Cosgrave of Ireland, who are in the United States on an official visit beginning March 17th.

Because the Secretary is testifying before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee tomorrow beginning at 10:30, our briefing will probably be held about 1:00 o'clock, and we expect to have his testimony piped into the Briefing Room.

His testimony tomorrow is part of a long project of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee during the Bicentennial Year to have an overall view of U.S.

Kios
AT

STATEMENT

March 15, 1976

There was a meeting of AIAA members and a few CIA officials at CIA on Thursday evening, March 11. There was a clear understanding beforehand, that the discussions were private and not for publication, or for further dissemination. We have no comment on any of the substantive information in the Post article one way or the other. To the degree that any classified information might have been mentioned, I accept full responsibility. I am determined it will not happen again, and will issue new guidelines with respect to what may be discussed at such meetings in the future.

George Bush
Director

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